

## South Lake Union Urban Center Plan Update Frequently Asked Questions

### **Why is the South Lake Union neighborhood plan being updated?**

The South Lake Union has undergone significant changes over the 7 years since the current neighborhood plan was adopted. The neighborhood is now expected to see much more growth than the neighborhood had planned for in the 1990s.

In recognition of this expected growth, the neighborhood was designated an "Urban Center" when the City's Comprehensive Plan was updated last year. Urban center is a regional designation, and there are requirements that a plan for an Urban Center must fulfill under King County's Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs).

### **What will the neighborhood plan update be looking at?**

A number of projects are already underway and decisions have already been made that could effect the future of South Lake Union. The purpose of the plan update is not to revisit those projects. Instead, the plan update will be looking at a number of new topics, in order to meet the requirements of the CPPs and to address issues or resolve questions that have arisen since the plan was first adopted.

Among the issues that will be considered are:

- Urban design
- The relationship between subareas in the neighborhood and South Lake Union as a whole.
- Incentives for affordable housing, historic preservation and green building
- Neighborhood-scale green urban planning
- Green streets
- Connections to surrounding neighborhoods

### **What is the City's relationship to the University of Washington Studio?**

Every year, the University of Washington's Department of Urban Design and Planning holds a studio course for its first year graduate students. This course is sponsored by a local group, and works on a real-world issue. The City's Department of Planning and Development (DPD) sponsored this year's studio.

The students have been charged with coming up with proposals around the issues that they identified in their study of the neighborhood that DPD felt could be most useful to consider in the plan update. DPD has been reviewing their work, but the proposals are the students' own. The students' ideas and comments from the public on their ideas will be used as input to the plan update. Additional work will be done and additional public meetings will be held before any plan proposals are finalized.

**How will decisions about the plan update be made?**

As with all adopted neighborhood plans, final decisions about the neighborhood plan will be made by the City Council. The Department of Planning and Development (DPD) is managing the plan update and will be working closely with other City departments that can have an effect on the neighborhood's future. DPD will also be meeting with SLUFAN's Planning and Policy committee monthly to talk about issues related to the plan's update. DPD will also hold a series of public meetings to elicit broader public input and to shape the recommendations of the plan. One or more meetings will be held this fall, and additional meetings will be held in 2006, to help to make sure that the updated plan responds to the community's goals.

**What is the timeline for the update?**

The tentative timeline is as follows:

2005	Spring	UW class presents ideas at community workshop
	Fall	Community meetings on issues and neighborhood goals
2006	Winter	Preliminary Comprehensive Plan amendments ready
		Community meetings on draft amendments to neighborhood plan
	Summer	Plan amendments finalized
		SEPA (environmental review) decisions published
	Fall	Council review and adoption

**How can I stay involved?**

Call or e-mail XXXXX to have your name added to the mailing list.

**Where can I get more information?**

The DPD South Lake Union web page ([www.seattle.gov/dpd/planning/slu](http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/planning/slu)) will be updated as new information becomes available.

Or, contact Lish Whitson of DPD at [lish.whitson@seattle.gov](mailto:lish.whitson@seattle.gov) or (206) 233-0079 if you have questions about the plan.